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20 August 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

**SUBJECT: Conversation with Representative Peter Rodino
Re Green Beret Case**

1. In response to a request from the office of Representative Peter Rodino (D., N.J.), I met with Mr. Rodino today on the Green Beret case. Mr. Rodino asked if Mr. Gerry Zeltman, on the staff of Mr. Rodino's Judiciary Subcommittee, who had been following the case for Mr. Rodino, could join us. I said I had no objections.

2. I began by summarizing the facts as outlined in my memorandum of 13 August 1969 which served as the basis of my briefing of several other members of the Congress (copy attached).

3. When I concluded Mr. Rodino asked if it was possible that the Special Forces officers involved might have been reluctant to turn Chuyen over to the South Vietnamese authorities for fear that they might soon release him or not hold him securely. I said I thought this was conceivable but I had no basis for judgment.

4. After several questions designed to clarify factual points I had already made, Rodino remarked that he had already said publicly that he planned to query the Agency and would therefore have to answer press questions about the results. I said I hoped he could handle this by pointing out that this was strictly an Army case and that Assistant Secretary Deal had already stated that Special Forces personnel are in no way subject to CIA control and that he had confirmed this by checking with CIA.

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5. Rodino asked if he could say that CIA had never made a recommendation to the Army regarding the arrest of the Special Forces officers or the handling of their cases. I said this was certainly a fact, but again, this was an Army case and I hoped he could base a statement to this effect on information obtained from the Army rather than from CIA. I suggested that the more CIA is mentioned in connection with the case, the more complicated the situation becomes for all concerned.

6. Mr. Rodino expressed apparently sincere appreciation for the briefing, and his questions and attitude gave no indication of skepticism regarding what he was told or of intention to implicate the Agency in any way.



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Att

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